

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7685
AMCONSUL RECIFE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN JOSE 2609

FOR: BRASILIA FOR MARY HOYT AND BARBARA HEINEBACK, MRS. CARTER PARTY

USIA IBS/PL, IPS/PL, ILA FOR G. MILLER, STATE, ARA FOR A: WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACT MRS. CARTER VISIT

LEADING DAILY LA NACION CARRIED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL JUNE
4, 1977, ON MRS. CARTER VISIT TO COSTA RICA AND U.S. SIGNING
OF THE SAN JOSE PACT.

THE IDEA AND PRACTICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

THE RECENT VISIT OF THE FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES
HAD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE VIRTUE OF HIGHLIGHTING THE
EMINENT PLACE OUR COUNTRY OCCUPIES IN THE DOCTRINE AND
PRACTICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY, A PLACE WHICH IT
SHARES WITH THE UNITED STATES.

THE EXPRESSION OF AN AUTHENTIC DEMOCRACY CAN BE VARIED,
BUT THE TOUCHSTONE AND "SINA QUA NON" OF SUCH
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EXPRESSIONS IS THE POSSIBILITY OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE,
THROUGH THE MEANS OF VOTING IN FREE ELECTIONS.

THE SPECIAL VISIT MRS. CARTER MADE TO THE SUPREME
ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL PROVED ONCE AGAIN THE SIMILARITY OF
THE DEMOCRATIC IDEALS WHICH UNITE OUR TWO NATIONS. IT

IS THIS TRIBUNAL WHICH, IN EFFECT, REPRESENTS THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE POPULAR VOTE AND ITS DEFENSE. ONLY A JUDICIAL INSTITUTION, ABOVE THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND ON THE SIDES, CONSTITUTES AN ADEQUATE GUARANTEE THAT THE POPULAR WILL IS RESPECTED, IN THE WAY THAT IT HAS BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES--ACCORDING TO OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITOR-- "FROM WASHINGTON TO CARTER," AND HOW IT CAN BE SAID THAT IT HAS BEEN AMONG OURSELVES, SINCE AN AUTONOMOUS JUDICIAL INSTITUTION HAS ASSUMED THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE PURITY OF ELECTORAL PRIMARIES.

IN THIS RESPECT, AND IN OTHERS DEALING WITH THE DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE EXERCISE OF DEMOCRACY, COSTA RICA CAN LIFT UP ITS HEAD BEFORE THE WORLD, DUE TO ITS ADHERENCE TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. COSTA RICA WAS A SIGNATORY OF THE DECLARATION AND, WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF, A PIONEER OF NEW INITIATIVES FOR ITS BETTER PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

FITTINGLY, AT THE MOMENT MRS. CARTER WAS IN OUR COUNTRY, PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHINGTON SIGNED SO-CALLED "PACT OF SAN JOSE"" ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE (PACT'S) BASIC TEXT WAS EDITED DURING THE INTERAMERICAN CONVENTION HELD IN OUR CAPITAL ON NOVEMBER 22, 1969, AND COSTA RICA WAS THE FIRST TO SIGN IT IN 1970.

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THIS GESTURE, TOGETHER WITH A MOTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A U.N. HIGH COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, A PROPOSAL COSTA RICA PRESENTED TWELVE YEARS AGO, HAS ELOQUENTLY TRANSFORMED OUR COUNTRY INTO A STANDARD-BEARER OF AN IDEAL WHICH MERITS THE GREATEST ATTENTION FROM ALL NATIONS.

THE PACT WHICH THE UNITED STATES SIGNED MAY 31 CONTAINS THE FUNDAMENTAL BASES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERAMERICAN COURT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THIS MANNER, IT CONSTITUTES AN IMPORTANT JUDICIAL INSTRUMENT IN THE HANDS OF THE AMERICAN NATIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE MOST PRECIOUS HUMAN VALUES ON THIS CONTINENT.

COSTA RICA HAS TAKEN GREAT STEPS IN THE PROCLAMATION AN PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS, AS MUCH IN THE NATIONAL AS INTERNATIONAL SPHERE. THIS IS, WITHOUT DOUBT, ONE OF THE GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR COUNTRY, ONE TO WHICH ALL COSTA RICA CITIZENS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO

FOR DECADES ON BEHALF OF THE LIBERTY AND DIGNITY OF MAN.

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AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN JOSE 2609

FOR: BRASILIA FOR MARY HOYT AND BARBARA HEINEBACK, MRS. CARTER PARTY

USIA IBS/PL, IPS/PL, ILA FOR G. MILLER, STATE, ARA FOR A: WHITE HOUSE

LA IDEA Y LA PRACTICA DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS Y LA
DEMOCRACIA

LA RECIENTE VISITA DE LA PRIMERA DAMA DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS HA TENIDO, ENTRE OTRAS COSAS, LA VIRTUD DE DESTACAR
EL PUESTO RELEVANTE QUE OCUPA NUESTRO PAIS EN LA DOCTRINA
Y LA PRACTICA DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS Y LA DEMOCRACIA
FILOSOFIA QUE COMPARTI CON LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA.

VARIAS PUEDEN SER LAS EXPRESIONES DE UNA AUTENTICA
DEMOCRACIA, PERO LA PIEDRA DE TOQUE Y CONDICION "SINE
QUA NON" PARA QUE ELLA PUEDA EJERCERSE ES LA POSIBILI-
DAD DE LA PARTICIPACION CIUDADANA EN UN GOBIERNO DEL
PUEBLO Y PARA EL PUEBLO, A TRAVES DE LA EMISION DEL VOTO
EN ELECCIONES LIBRES.

LA VISTA ESPECIAL QUE LA SRA. CARTER REALIZO AL
TRIBUNAL SUPREMO DE ELECCIONES, CONSTITUYO UNA
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PRUEBA MAS DE LA IDENTIDAD DE IDEALES DEMOCRATICAS QUE UNEN A NUESTRAS DOES NACIONES. ES ESTE TRIBUNAL EN EFECTO, EL QUE REPRESENTA LA SALVAGUARDIA DEL VOTO POPULAR Y SU DEFENSA. SOLO UNA INSTITUCION JURIDICA POR ENCIMA DE LOS PARTIDOS POLITICOS Y AL MARGEN DE ELLOS, CONSTITUYE SUFICIENTE GARANTIA DE QUE LA VOLUNTAD POPULAR ES RESPETADA, COMO HA SUCEDIDO EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS -- SEGUN LA ILUSTRE VISITANTE-- "DESDE WASHINGTON A CARTER", Y COMO PUEDE AFIRMARSE QUE OCURRE ENTRE NOSOTORS, DESDE QUE UNA ENTIDAD JURIDICA AUTONOMA HA ASUMIDO LA RESPONSABILIDAD DE PROTEGER LA PUREZA DE LOS COMICIOS ELECTORALES.

EN ESTE ASPECTO, Y EN OTROS QUE TIENEN QUE VER CON LA EXPRESION DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS Y EL EJERCICIO DE LA DEMOCRACIA, COSTA RICA PUEDE LEVANTAR LA CABEZA ANTE EL MUNDO, POR SU APEGO A LA LETRA Y AL ESPIRITU DE LA DECLARACION UNIVERSAL DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS DE LA QUE, EN SU TIEMPO, FUE SIGNATARIA Y, CUANDO LA OPORTUNIDAD SE HA PRESENTADO, PIONERA DE NUEVAS INICIATIVAS PARA SU MEJOR PROTECCION Y SALVAGUARDIA A NIVEL INTERNACIONAL.

JUSTAMENTE, EN EL MOMENTO EN QUE LA SRA. CARTER ERA ESPERADA EN NUESTRO PAIS, EL PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER FIRMABA EN WASHINGTON EL LLAMADO "PACTO DE SAN JOSE" SOBRE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS, CUYO TEXTO BASICO FUE REDACTADO EN LA CONVENCION INTERAMERICANA CELEBRADA EN NUESTRA CAPITAL EL 22 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 1969, Y QUE COSTA RICA FUE LA PRIMERA EN FIRMAR EN 1970.

ESE GESTO, JUNTO CON EL DE UNA MOCION ENCAMIDADA A LA CREACION DE UN ALTO COMISARIADO PARA LA DEFENSA DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS, DEPENDIENTE DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS, QUE COSTA RICA PRESENTO HACE 12 ANOS HAN CONVERTIDO ELOCUENTEMENTE A NUESTRO PAIS EN

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ABANDERADO DE UN IDEAL QUE MERECE LA MAYOR DEDICACION DE TODAS LAS NACIONES.

EL PACTO QUE ESTADOS UNIDOS FIRMO EL 31 DE MAYO, PONE LAS BASES FUNDAMENTALES PARA LA CREACION DE UNA CORTE INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS Y CONSTITUYE DE ESTA MANERA, UN IMPORTANTE INSTRUMENTO JURIDICO EN MANOS DE LAS NACIONES AMERICANAS PARA SALVAGUARDAR EN ESTE CONTINENTE LOS VALORES MAS PRECIADOS DE LA HUMANIDAD.

COSTA RICA LLEVA DADOS GRANDES PASOS EN LA PROCLAMACION Y LA PROTECCION DE ESTOS DERECHOS, TANTO EN EL AMBITO NACIONAL COMO INTERNACIONAL. ESTE ES, A NO DUDARLO, UNO DE LOS MAYORES LOGROS DE NUESTRO PAIS, Y AL CUAL CONTRIBUIMOS TODOS LOS NACIONALES DESDE HACE DECENAS DE ANOS CON NUESTRA VOCACION POR LA LIBERTAD Y LA DIGNIDAD DEL HOMBRE.
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